

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 226

Recognizing the 140th anniversary of the founding of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, and congratulating the members and officers of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers for the union's many achievements.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 8, 2003

Mr. KUCINICH submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

RESOLUTION

Recognizing the 140th anniversary of the founding of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, and congratulating the members and officers of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers for the union's many achievements.

Whereas the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers is the oldest rail union in North America;

Whereas the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers was founded on May 8, 1863 as a secret, fraternal labor organization and its first meetings were held clandestinely for fear of reprisals from railroad management;

Whereas the climate towards labor organizations at that time was extraordinarily hostile and many of the other organi-

zations founded contemporaneously failed to withstand the negative pressures placed upon them and they subsequently disbanded in their infancies;

Whereas the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers began to thrive despite the climate into which it was formed;

Whereas the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers has grown from its original 13 members—all from the Michigan Central Railroad—to 59,000 active and retired members located throughout the United States and Canada;

Whereas the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers' members have contributed, both directly through their railroad activity and in their private capacities, to the war effort in all of the wars of the United States dating back to the Civil War;

Whereas the efforts of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers to improve rail safety for both their members and the public have resulted in a dramatic decrease in the number of railroad accidents in the years since the union's inception;

Whereas, although it accepted for membership only locomotive engineers in its early years, the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers enlarged its membership ranks to include other rail employees;

Whereas, in 1964, the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers launched an apprentice engineer program to assure the nation of a stable supply of well-trained locomotive engineers and to assure stable employment and earnings to apprentices;

Whereas, in 1993, the 2,500 member American Train Dispatchers Association officially merged with the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers in order to unite the two

key railway professions so as to better facilitate the efficient and safe movement of passengers and freight;

Whereas, in 1995, the Rail Canada Traffic Controllers union also chose to merge with the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, increasing the union's membership by 700;

Whereas, in addition to providing representation for its members, the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers aggressively participates in the labor movement with other unions and organizations to promote the interests of working men and women and their families;

Whereas the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers is an extraordinary union whose leadership continues to work hard every day—just as it did in 1863—to protect members' health and safety, to guard their financial interests, to give them an effective voice on the job, and to ensure dignity, respect, and security for railway workers in the workplace; and

Whereas the efforts of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers are deserving of our attention and admiration:
Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) recognizes the 140th anniversary of the
3 founding of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engi-
4 neers;

5 (2) congratulates the Brotherhood of Loco-
6 motive Engineers for its many achievements and the
7 strength of its membership;

8 (3) recognizes the tremendous contributions
9 made by the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers

1 to the structural development and building of the
2 United States and for the many improvements in the
3 well-being of tens of thousands of workers; and

4 (4) expects that the Brotherhood of Locomotive
5 Engineers will continue its outstanding work and
6 will have an even greater impact in the 21st century
7 and beyond, and will further enhance the standard
8 of living and improve the work environment for rail
9 workers and other laborers for generations to come.

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